

2015 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

HORSE CREEK, MEADOW CREEK, AND WESTSIDE ALLOTMENTS

Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Horse Creek, Meadow Creek, and Westside Allotments. We are including a signature page at the end of each AOI which we are requesting permittees sign and return to the district. This signature page also includes the signatures of the district ranger and current range management specialist overseeing the allotment. We believe that this process better represents the cooperative nature of managing these areas and indicates an understanding of the information in this document as well as the information in your term grazing permit(s).

The Horse Creek, Meadow Creek, and Westside Allotments are grazed as an on/off management system in conjunction with the adjoining BLM allotments.

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permitted</u>	<u>Non-Use</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Season</u>
Horse Creek	6		6	5/16 to 9/10
Meadow Creek	37		37	5/1 to 11/7
Westside	63		63	5/1 to 5/30 & 11/16 to 12/26

The current allowable use annual indicators for these allotments are as follows.

Grazing is restricted from the Horse Creek Allotment, Badger Creek Unit (on Forest Service administered lands) for the protection of bull trout. The boundary fence should be maintained to ensure that cattle do not enter this unit.

End of season indicators on the Horse Creek Allotment are as follows:

1. End of growing season stubble height on hydric species is 6 inches.
2. Woody species browse is 35% current year's production.
3. Upland utilization is 50% current year's production.

End of season indicators on the Meadow Creek Allotment, Warm Creek and Meadow Creek Units are as follows:

1. End of growing season stubble height on hydric species is 6 inches.
2. Woody species browse is 35% current year's production.
3. Upland utilization is 50% current year's production.
4. Streambank alteration is 10%.

End of season indicators on Westside Allotment are as follows:

1. End of growing season stubble height on hydric species is 4 inches.
2. Woody species browse is 50% current year's production.
3. Upland utilization is 50% current year's production.

The drier mesic meadows adjacent to streams and springs should be watched to ensure that 50% use is not exceeded. These meadows are of concern across the district and more focus is going to be put on use levels in these areas. While all adjacent meadows should be looked at, the drier meadows have less chance of regrowth and therefore are of highest concern. The upland annual use level of 50% should be used to manage the dry meadows and your rangeland management

specialist will work with you to determine when a desired use level has been met, so that everyone understands what the meadows should look like after livestock use.

Designated Monitoring Areas(DMA's): DMA's are used to monitor representative riparian areas within a grazing unit which establishes a record of utilization and trend. The information from the DMA is also used to plan cattle moves, determine if end of season indicators are met, and to evaluate whether current management is effective or needs to be modified. Permittee monitoring, documentation and photos are encouraged before entering and when leaving each unit.

Fence & Water Improvements: Please refer to Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. Allotment boundary fences should be maintained prior to cattle entering the allotment, interior fences should also be maintained prior to cattle entering a new unit. Existing improvements should be maintained each year before requesting new improvements.

Response to Predators: Should predator issues arise on the allotment, please contact your range management specialist and Idaho Fish & Game or Wildlife Services with the information. Coordination with permittees and all agencies listed above is important to assess predator issues and share information on predator management decisions on National Forest administered lands and those areas adjacent to National Forest.

Grazing Fees: The grazing fees for the 2015 season are \$1.69/head month. Your grazing fee payment will need to be received prior to turning livestock out on the National Forest. Receipt of payment could take up to 2 weeks from the date payment is sent.

Actual Use Report: Toward the end of the grazing season you will be receiving an INDIVIDUAL ACTUAL USE REPORT. You will need to provide a record of the dates your cattle enter the forest, dates they leave the forest, and a record of losses. The report is a requirement of the special terms and conditions of your term grazing permit. The report is due 2 weeks after cattle are removed from the allotment.

If you have any questions about these instructions, or management of the allotment please contact Diane Weaver or the Rangeland Management Specialist at (208) 588-3400.

Horse Creek, Meadow Creek, and Westside C&H Allotments 2015 Annual Operating Instructions

Salmon-Challis National Forest
Lost River Ranger District
PO Box 507
Mackay, Idaho

Approved By: /s/ **Diane L Weaver** **5/14/2015**
Diane L. Weaver Date
District Ranger

Prepared By: /s/ **Joshua L Edwards** **5/14/2015**
Joshua L. Edwards Date
Rangeland Management Specialist

Accepted By: /s/ **Ryan Pancheri** **5/10/2015**
Ryan Pancheri Date
Manager, Pancheri Inc.

Please sign and return this page to the above address.